

# 1. Weather

A scientific study has found that El Niño does not always cause bad weather conditions but that it puts a damper on hurricanes, thereby saving lives.

The El Niño phenomenon is a recurring warming of the Pacific Ocean off the South American coast.

NASA researcher Robert Wilson has studied a connection between the presence of the El Niño phenomenon and a mild hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. He has found that whenever El Niño was present, there were never more than three intense hurricanes in a season.

According to the NASA researcher, El Niño creates a kind of vertical wind shear that literally blows the tops off the high storms that form in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico early in the hurricane season.

## • Notes •

El Niño (phenomenon) 「エル・ニ - ニヨ現象」 put a damper on ~ 「～の邪魔をする」 recurring 「繰り返し起こる」 NASA (=National Aeronautics and Space Administration) (米) 航空宇宙局 researcher 「研究者」 connection 「関係」 presence 「存在, 実際に起こること」 intense 「激しい」 vertical wind shear 「風の進行方向に対して垂直の風速変化」 literally 「文字通り」

## USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

1. The forecast for tomorrow predicts rain.  
(明日の予報は雨です)
2. The possibility of snow is expected this evening.  
(今夜は雪が降るかもしれません)
3. Nagoya will be cloudy with isolated rain showers.  
(名古屋は曇りで, 所によりにわか雨が降るでしょう)
4. It's going to start off fair in the morning, but will become cloudy in the afternoon.  
(朝のうちは晴れですが, 午後には曇るでしょう)
5. The high on Sunday will be in the low twenties.  
(日曜日の最高気温は21度から23度位でしょう)

## EXERCISES

- I. 下記の語句より適切なものを選び, 空所を埋めなさい。(2 × 5)
1. What's the weather \_\_\_\_\_ for this evening?
  2. Does El Niño cause \_\_\_\_\_ weather worldwide?
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ on Monday will be in the mid-twenties.
  4. There is a growing \_\_\_\_\_ that El Niño will bring about a cool summer in Japan.
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the weather like in Kyoto?

(a) map	(b) gain	(c) opportunity	(d) How	(e) forecast
(f) unusual	(g) What	(h) possibility	(i) usual	(j) low

II. テープを聴いて次のニュースの空所を埋めなさい。(2 × 10)

The last El Niño, which began in 1997 and ended in June 1998, was (a) \_\_\_\_\_ for (b) \_\_\_\_\_ in California, (c) \_\_\_\_\_ in East Africa, (d) \_\_\_\_\_ in New Zealand, (e) \_\_\_\_\_ rains and wide-ranging fires and smog in Southeast Asia and damage totaling more than \$2 billion in Ecuador.

But a report recently published by the American Meteorological Society found (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_ from El Niño. It says that the southern United States and California (h) \_\_\_\_\_ severe storms, while the North had a mild, (i) \_\_\_\_\_ dry winter. It notes that 189 deaths were (j) \_\_\_\_\_ to the latest El Niño phenomenon, with an estimated 850 lives saved due to the lack of bad winter weather.

• Notes •

American Meteorological Society 「米国気象学会」 estimated 850 lives 「およそ850人の命」

III. テープを聴いてそれぞれの正しい答えを (a) ~ (d) より選びなさい。(5 × 4)

- (a) In June 1996. (b) In June 1997. (c) In June 1998. (d) In June 1999.
- (a) For heavy rains and wide-ranging fires in Southeast Asia.  
(b) For a lack of rains and wide-ranging fires in Southeast Asia.  
(c) For failed rains and landslides in Southeast Asia.  
(d) For failed rains and flooding in Southeast Asia.
- (a) Minor benefits from El Niño. (b) Minor losses from El Niño.  
(c) Substantial losses from El Niño. (d) Lots of benefits from El Niño.
- (a) Nearly 190 deaths. (b) Nearly 120 deaths.  
(c) Nearly 80 deaths. (d) More than 200 deaths.

IV. [æ] と [A] の発音に注意して次の英文を読んでみましょう。

- Seeing the cop and the dog, the cat ran away.
- You will soon learn the knack of this job.
- Pat has placed an AIDS awareness ad in the American paper.

Date	Class	Number	Name	Score
				/ 50